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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 5, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for October 5, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

ZAMAN / CUMHURIYET / EVRENSEL / OZGUR GUNDEM: Orhan Dogan, DTH (Democratic Society Movement) spokesperson and former DEP (Democracy Party) deputy, said during the DTH convention in Ankara (see press summary 10/03) that DTH's aim was to replace the impasse created by conventional politics, to reach broader sections of society, and adopt a new political mentality. For Dogan, DTH is the new century's project for solutions. According to Dogan, despite AKP undertaking significant reforms before the EU negotiation talks, it now remains reluctant about the Kurdish issue. Zaman daily separately reported that the DEP grassroots of the DTH vetoed any form of unification with Celal Dogan.

EVRENSEL: UYD (Accessible Life Association) introduced a new project to assist in finding solutions to migration and internal displacement issues in Tunceli. Tunceli Governor Mustafa Erkal said, to date, return of people to their villages has been achieved in four villages in Tunceli.

EVRENSEL/OZGUR GUNDEM: Villagers in Hakkari's Semdinli district claimed that soldiers wearing snow masks were being deployed in the environs of the village and were frequently doing identity checks in the village.

EVRENSEL: Thirty organizations, including unions, some NGOs and political parties set up an "Anti-Privatization Platform" in Mersin.

OZGUR GUNDEM: A 12-year-old child was killed in Bitlis's Tatvan district on August 14. The child's head was found severed from his body. Following the incident, soldiers reportedly blockaded the roads to the village where the murder was committed. Two children, who witnessed the murder, are reportedly forbidden by their families to speak because of fear. One DIHA news agency journalist was reportedly detained as he was trying to look into the issue.

OZGUR GUNDEM: A mine exploded on the side of the Hani-Diyarbakir road yesterday as Jandarma Command was conducting a road check. No casualties were reported.

CUMHURIYET / ZAMAN / OZGUR GUNDEM: Diyarbakir Governor's Office announced that C-4 explosives and mines were found in five different locations, and 8 underground shelters were found in the rural sections of Diyarbakir's Lice and Genc districts during military operations conducted between September 25 and 28. Reportedly, five people were detained on charges that they aided and abetted a terrorist organization.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Unidentified people opened fire at a house in a village of Tunceli's Mazgirt district on September 30.

HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): A hand grenade was found in a cemetery in Kilis. The police detonated the grenade safely.

HURRIYET / CUMHURIYE: A woman in Sanliurfa's Siverek district applied to the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation and claimed that her husband cut off her nose from her face in 2002. The woman reportedly sought financial assistance from the foundation in order to have her nose treated.

ZAMAN / EKSPRES: Antakya Orthodox Church administration hung a banner over a street to celebrate the coming of Ramadan.

CUMHURIYET: TCDD (Turkish State Railways Authority) filed an investigation with the Iskenderun Prosecutor in Hatay against allegations that vessels in Iskenderun were transporting explosives to Iraq. Some officials in Ankara allegedly gave instructions to cover these vessels by registering them as empty in the port registry records.

BOLGE: Umit Ozgumus, chairperson of Adana Chamber of Industry, said that Turkey should stand firm and its sole purpose should not be to enter the EU. On the other hand, Saban Bas, chairperson of Adana Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the recent developments in Turkey's EU bid. According to Bas, the doors of the EU will now be open to Turkish businessmen.

